REMARKS

Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the recent telephonic interview held on May 15, 2003. The amendments made by this paper are consistent with the proposals and claim amendments discussed with the Examiner.

The most recent *Office Action* (Feb. 11, 2003) rejected each of claims 1-27 under one or more of 35 U.S.C. § 112, 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In particular, claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 17 were under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,745,909 to Perlman, et al (*Perlman*). Claims 1, 2, and 8 were rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,642,621 to Nemoto et al (*Nemoto*). Claim 19 was rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Perlman* in light of U.S. Patent No. 5,764,201 to Ranganathan (*Ranganathan*), and claims 6 and 16 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of *Perlman* in combination with U.S. Patent No. 4,454,506 to Netravali et al (*Netravali*). Claims 6-7, 12, 14-15 and 21-27 were also rejected under U.S.C. § 112 for indefiniteness based on informalities, which have now been addressed herein.

By this paper, certain passages of the specification have been amended to correct grammatical errors and to correct certain other informalities suggested by the Examiner. Claim 8 has also been cancelled and claims 1, 6- 7, 10, 12, 14-15, 17-18, 21-23, and 25-26 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9-27 now remain pending. Of these pending claims, only claims 1, 10, 17, and 21 are independent claims.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for compositing an image that includes the acts of dividing images into slices comprising one or more lines, dividing the lines into spans, reading data corresponding to the spans without using a double image buffer, identifying portions of the image that are opaque and translucent, and reading only the visible portions of the image, and displaying the data corresponding to the visible portions of the image.

Claim 10 is directed to a method for compositing an image that includes the acts of generating a control structure describing an image, reading data from one or more sources and without storing one or more composite images of the data in a double image buffer, and displaying the read data on a display device.

Claim 17 is directed to a method for reducing flicker of an image that includes the acts of reading data of an image that is subject to flickering and that corresponds to a span, reading

previous data and next data corresponding to vertically adjacent spans, and blending the span data to reduce the flickering.

Claim 21 is directed to a method for blending data streams that includes the acts of receiving data streams at a blending unit that each have a color space, directing the data streams of the same color space to one or more blending units having associated color spaces, blending the data streams having the same color space as the blending unit into an output, converting the output into a single color space and thereafter blending the outputs into an image data stream.
As discussed during the interview with the Examiner, none of the pending foregoing independent claims are anticipated by or made obvious by *Perlman, Nemoto, Ranganathan, and Netravali*, either singly or in combination.

In contrast to the pending claims, *Perlman* is directed to a method for reducing image flicker that utilizes HTML formatting tags that identify flicker prone images to determine if anti-flicker techniques should actually be applied to the images. Col. 5, ll. 25-35; col. 5, ll. 50-65; col. 6, ll. 36-44; col. 7, ll. 37-53. One anti-flicker technology that is disclosed in *Perlman* includes filtering images based upon adjacent horizontal lines of the image (i.e., adjacent lines above and below, both extending horizontally across a display). Col. 6, ll. 3-19; col. 5, ll. 60-67. *Perlman* fails, however, to anticipate or make obvious a method that includes the application of data from adjacent spans, as recited in claim 17. *Perlman* also fails to teach compositing images without the use of a double image buffer, as recited in claim 10, or the identification of opaque and translucent portions of an image, as recited in claim 1.

Nemoto, which is also distinguished from the present application, is generally directed to methods and systems for rendering two or more images from an X-Ray machine. Col. 2, ll. 34-62. To display the images, *Nemoto* stores the separate images into corresponding primary or secondary memories for later extraction. Col. 3, ll. 47-60. A signal to a switching mechanism then determines whether the display will show one or more of the images, so as to retrieve the relevant image from the corresponding memory storage location. Col. 4, ll. 33-46. *Nemoto* fails, however, to anticipate or make obvious a method, as recited in claim 1, wherein translucent and opaque portions of an image are identified and in which only the visible portions of the image are read. In addition, *Nemoto* also fails to teach a method in which data is read from a source without storing one or more composite images of the data in a double image buffer, as recited in

claim 10, or in which anti-flickering techniques are performed using adjacent spans, as recited in claim 17.

Finally, *Netravali* discloses methods for filtering an image by adjusting the relative output intensities of adjacent, horizontally extending lines (*e.g.*, col. 2, ll. 25-45; col. 6, ll. 14-47) and *Rangathan* teaches a video controller that converts an image in the YUV color space to the RGB color space (*e.g.*, *Abstract*; col. 5, ll. 60-66). These references fail, however, to disclose or suggest the use of adjacent spans for reducing flicker, as recited in claim 17, or the act of separating and blending image data of the same color space prior to converting the color space, as recited in claim 19[1], either singly or in combination with *Perlman* and/or *Nemoto*.

Thus, while the above-identified references each disclose methods and systems for processing image data, they fail to disclose or suggest the claimed methods and systems of the present application, either singly or in combination, such as compositing images without the use of a double image buffer; identifying opaque and translucent portions of an image, and reading only the visible portions of the image; and blending data from the same color space prior to converting the data to a common color space. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for prompt allowance.

Furthermore, it will be noted with appreciation, that independent claim 21 and corresponding dependent claims were rejected for 35 U.S.C. § 112 informalities that have been corrected by the claim amendments presented herein.[2] Accordingly, claims 21-27 should also be found allowable for at least this reason.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through an additional telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

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[1] The *Ranganathan* reference was used only to rejected dependent claim 19, which depends from independent claim 17, which itself was distinguished from *Perlman* in the recent telephonic interview.

[2] Applicants have amended independent claim 21 and dependent claim 22, as suggested by the Examiner, to include the terms "to" and "as". Applicants have also amended dependent claims 25 and 26 to further clarify the terms "zero" or "zeroing", as suggested by the Examiner. Some additional amendments have also been made in dependent claims 6-7, 12, 14-15, 23-24, and 27 to correct grammatical informalities that have been found therein. It will be appreciated that these amendments merely clarify issues of form and should not, therefore, be construed as narrowing or expanding the original subject matter.

Dated this 4th day of June 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

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